

Andrew Jackson to Hugh Lawson White, March 30, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO HUGH L. WHITE.

Hermitage, March 30, 1828.

My Dear sir, I have Just recd. your letter of the 2d instant, and thank you for it; and permit me to assure you, I duly appreciate your motives.

one of the most painful occurrence of my life would be to have cause to change that good opinion of and feelings of friendship I have always entertained for Mr. M.¹ I cannot disguise tho, when the letter alluded to reached me, it smelled so much of deception that my hair stood on end for an hour. I am happy to receive the explanation given, but I cannot refrain from making the remark, that it is unfortunate that my communications of such importance have been lost, and more recently, documents mislaid, "in the dark recesses of the war Department". However I am willing to receive any apology for the past, as I always intended to act on the Defensive, and I hope nothing may hereafter occur at *wine drinkings* etc. etc., to arouse my suspicions of the sincerity of my friend Mr. M. as I have a great desire to carry my good opinion of him to my grave. I am told he and his soninlaw has been for the last six months engaged in writing a Book.

¹ Monroe.

When I first recd a copy of the letter of the 9th of Sept. 1818,² I was induced to believe from my inquiries, that it had been obtained by the friendship of Mr. C.³ that I might be placed on my guard and Judge of the sincerity of the professed friendship of Mr. M—as the letter had no marks that it was either confidential, or private, I supposed this probable;

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but I had doubts of its being genuine, and to put this to rest the original was in due time placed in my hands, as had been promised to put an end to my credulity and the copy first sent me, taken by the individual who handed me the original.⁴ It is due to Mr. C. as well as myself that a call should be [made] upon him to know from whom he got the intelligence that I had this letter in my possession, and if without his consent it was furnished, I can soon get into this mystery. I wish you and Major Eaton therefore to see Mr. C. and make the inquiry suggested—and if the original was addressed to him, and has been taken *secretely* out of his bureau, it shall be safely preserved and returned to him, thro any safe channel, he may suggest.

2 Monroe to Calhoun; see *Correspondence of John C. Calhoun*, ed. Jameson (Am. Hist. Assoc., *Ann. Rept.*, 1899, vol. H.), pp. 260–264.

3 Calhoun.

4 The letter was sent to Jackson by Sam Houston. See Jackson's memorandum to A. J. Donelson, Mar. 8, 1831, *post*.

There is mystery in this thing, I would like to unravel it, and will, so soon as I receive you[r] answer after seeing Mr. C. Mr. C. can say who had access to his papers that would do such an act without his consent.

In haste respectfully yr friend